



US006422875B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Patak et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,422,875 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 23, 2002**

(54) **DEVICE FOR COMMUNICATING WITH A VOICE-DISABLED PATIENT**

(76) Inventors: **Lance Patak; Paul Masvidal**, both of
1216 S. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles, CA
(US) 90019

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/312,425**

(22) Filed: **May 14, 1999**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/116,210, filed on Jan. 19, 1999.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **B43L 1/00; B42D 15/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **434/408; 434/416; 434/267; 434/262; 281/42; 281/44; 281/45; 283/115**

(58) **Field of Search** 281/42, 44, 45, 281/39; 283/115; 434/408, 117, 112, 415, 416, 267, 262

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,605,246 A * 8/1986 Haas et al. 282/29
4,730,846 A * 3/1988 Sheehan et al. 281/45
4,869,531 A * 9/1989 Rees 283/67
5,297,814 A * 3/1994 Peters 281/45

5,720,502 A * 2/1998 Cain 283/115
5,725,250 A * 3/1998 Balderrama 281/45
5,758,902 A * 6/1998 McManus 281/45
5,823,574 A * 10/1998 Sullins et al. 281/45
5,913,686 A * 6/1999 VanWinkle 434/267
5,984,368 A * 11/1999 Cain 283/115

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Jacob K. Ackun

Assistant Examiner—Bena B. Miller

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Kelly, Bauersfeld, Lowry & Kelley LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A device for communicating with a voice-disabled patient includes, generally, a housing having a display surface, indicia on the display surface that may be utilized by the patient to indicate the status and needs of the patient, and a marker that the patient may use to convey his or her status and needs to a third party. One embodiment includes a clipboard having two eraser-board surfaces and an erasable marker connectable to the clipboard. Another embodiment includes a lap-sized housing for a computer and a touch pad-activated screen. In both embodiments, the indicia includes a series of descriptive words and phrases indicating the status and needs of the patient, and graphical representations of anterior and posterior views of a human body with descriptive words correlating to common symptoms of specific parts of the body.

6 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

